

HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer

OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC

Health Inspector

FOR

1969

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

DRAPKIN, Stanley, M.B.E., T.D., B.A. (*Chairman*)

UNWIN, Frederick St. G. (*Vice-Chairman*)

JOHNSON, Derrick R. H.

MARLOW, Douglas

MORTE, Ernest T.

NOTT, George T.

NOTT, Kenneth C.

POWELL, Mrs. Kathleen

SEYMOUR, Gordon H.

SIMS, Harold V.

SUCKLING, William R.

TANNER, George R.

TAYLOR, Mrs. Patricia R.

WARD, David H.

JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES
HALSTEAD URBAN & RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS

MOUNT HILL, HALSTEAD, ESSEX

Telephone: Halstead 2473

Medical Officer of Health

DR. JOHN HARKNESS

M.D., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

*Also Medical Officer of Health, Halstead Urban District Council
and
Medical Officer, Essex County Council*

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

Public Health Inspector

HAROLD NIELD

F.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I., D.R.S.H.

Incorporated Public Health Engineer

Also Public Health Inspector, Halstead Urban District Council

Deputy Public Health Inspector BRIAN A. J. TURNER
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors BERNARD J. DAVIES
D.R.S.H.
GEOFFREY CUSDEN
M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant DAVID J. LAVER
(to 31.3.69)
SYDNEY B. SAWARD
M.R.I.P.H.H.
(from 1.4.69)

Chief Clerk BRUCE F. LAWS
(to 31.3.69)

Clerical Assistant JOHN W. ACTON
(from 9.6.69 to 31.10.69)
Mrs. JEAN G. GAYWOOD

Clerk Typist Miss VALERIE J. TREBLE
(to 2.5.69)
Mrs. ANN P. WILKS
(from 21.7.69)

Pupil Public Health Inspector JOHN R. TANSWELL
(to 12.9.69)

Part-time Rodent Operator FRANK ANDREWS

Also Part-time Rodent Operator
Halstead Urban District Council
Braintree Urban District Council
Braintree Rural District Council &
Witham Urban District Council

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
THE HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District during 1969.

Vital Statistics

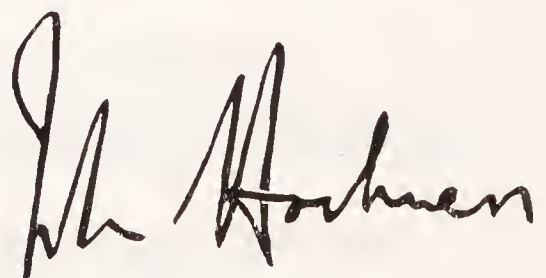
The estimated population is 18,150 and there were 325 live births and two still births which gives a birth rate of 21·3 compared with 16·3 for England and Wales.

The death rate of 9·6 per 1,000 of the population compared with 11·9 for England and Wales.

Infectious Diseases

There were 38 cases of Measles notified during the year. The vaccination programme, which commenced in 1968, continued but the number of cases notified highlighted the fact that some parents were not having their children immunised. This was in part due to adverse publicity about one make of vaccine which was withdrawn from use. This vaccine had been found to cause more reactions than that produced from a different strain of measles virus. No vaccine is likely to be completely free from risk, but these risks have to be evaluated against the benefits which the vaccine confers.

There were 162 cases of typhoid notified in England during the year and one case occurred in the District. Most of the cases were contracted during holidays abroad and the local case was one of an outbreak which occurred among holidaymakers who had stayed in an hotel in North Africa. Only 5 per cent of the 162 cases had received vaccination against typhoid before going on holiday. Vaccination against the disease is advisable for travellers going abroad, particularly to Southern Europe and North Africa, where the incidence of infections is higher than in this country.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. H. Hockman', written in a cursive style.

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the environmental health services provided by your Public Health Inspectors during 1969.

The report as customary, because of the form in which the Ministries insist the reports are written, consists of statistics required by statute with some brief comment, under the subject headings of:

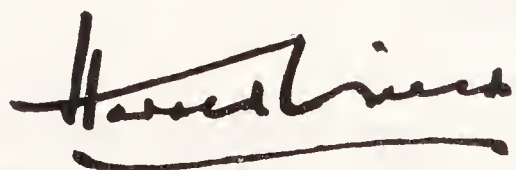
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|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Housing | 5. Working Conditions |
| 2. Food | 6. Water |
| 3. Air Pollution | 7. Pests |
| 4. Waste Matter | 8. Miscellaneous |

The report is essentially a record of what was done in 1969 by your Public Health Inspectors to maintain and improve environmental health standards. As the current interest in pollution and the environment demonstrates, much work needs to be done. Indeed, to protect environmental health adequately, demands constant and vigorous effort.

The coming into operation in August of the Housing Act 1969 brought into effect a more generous level and scope of assistance for the improvement or conversion of dwellings, and not only increased the amount of improvement grant payable but also introduced a system of Qualification Certification in relation to rented properties whereby in order to change the tenancy from a controlled to a regulated one with rental increase, landlords must obtain Qualification Certificates from the Council certifying that the houses comply with prescribed standards.

The lengthy period of time during the year when Chief Clerk, Clerk Typist and Public Pupil Health Inspector assistance was lacking, and also when there was lengthy absence on account of illness of two Public Health Inspectors, seriously affected the work of the department.

This report, once again provides me with the pleasurable opportunity of recording my thanks to the staff for their willing, loyal and efficient assistance, and to my colleagues in other departments for their courteous and helpful co-operation throughout the year.



Health Inspector

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	76,637
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	18,150
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1969) according to the Rate Books	7,461
Rateable Value	£481,987
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,909

Live Births:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	310	174	136
Illegitimate.. .. .	15	9	6
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population			17·9
Birth rate (corrected by comparability factor of 1·19)			21·3
Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)			16·3
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			5

Still Births:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate.. .. .	1	1	0
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			6
Total births (live and still)			327

Infant and Maternal Mortality:

Deaths of infants under 1 year	4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	12
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate births	13
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	—
Neo-natal mortality rate (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births	3
Early neo-natal mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 live births	3
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and first week) per 1,000 live and still births	9
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	0
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	—

Deaths:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Deaths	219	115	104
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population			12·1
Death rate (corrected by comparability factor of 0·79)			9·6
Death rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)			11·9

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1969

Disease	Male	Female
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	0
Tuberculosis (other)	0	0
Syphilitic disease	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping cough	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0
Measles	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2
Malignant, neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	1	0
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3	2
Diabetes mellitus	1	2
Other endocrine, etc., diseases	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	0	0
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	0	3
Coronary disease, angina	0	0
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	0	1
Hypertensive disease	1	1
Ischaemic heart disease	32	22
Other forms of heart disease	4	6
Cerebrovascular disease	18	25
Other circulatory disease	2	3
Influenza	2	0
Pneumonia	10	5
Bronchitis and emphysema	5	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	1
Peptic ulcer	1	1
Appendicitis	0	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0
Other diseases of digestive system	2	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	2	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
Other causes of perinatal mortality	0	1
Congenital malformation	0	0
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	0	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	0	2
Motor vehicle accidents	2	1
All other accidents	1	3
Suicide	0	0
Homicide and operations of war	0	0
Totals ..	115	104

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Total Cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	1	1	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0	0
Infectious Hepatitis	0	0	0
Measles	38	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	0	0	0
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	9	0	0
Scarletina	8	0	0
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	2	2	0
Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary)	1	1	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Totals ..	58	4	0

Tuberculosis—New Cases Notified:

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	0	0	0	0
1 and under 5 years	0	0	0	0
5 and under 10 years	0	0	0	0
10 and under 15 years	0	0	0	0
15 and under 20 years	0	0	0	0
20 and under 25 years	0	0	0	0
25 and under 35 years	0	0	0	1
35 and under 45 years	0	0	0	0
45 and under 55 years	0	0	0	0
55 and under 65 years	0	0	0	0
65 years and upwards	2	0	0	0
Totals ..	2	0	0	1

Transfers from other Districts: 0

Deaths from Tuberculosis: 1

1. HOUSING

Housing in its many aspects had priority in the work of your Public Health Inspectors. The encouragement of improved housing standards through financial grants and loans, the prevention of deterioration in the condition of older houses through routine inspection and enforcement action concerning disrepair, and the reconstruction or demolition of condemned houses through slum clearance proposals, all helped in making a major contribution to the maintenance and improvement of the District's social as well as environmental health conditions. One remembers, however, that an immense amount of time and effort has been expended on this work since the days of "homes fit for heroes" campaign after the First World War, when politicians have got the votes but most of the heroes not the homes. There have been innumerable proposals and promises regarding solving the housing problem, and so much still remains to be done.

Public Health Inspectors' housing duties present many problems, and they often must bear the odium for actions which they are carrying out on instructions from central government. No problem causes more heartache and gives a worse public image than slum clearance.

(a) Housing Inspections

(1)	Inspections regarding disrepair and sanitary defects	..	..	243
(2)	Houses fully surveyed and recorded	..	..	100
(3)	Inspections regarding reconditioning	..	..	295
(4)	Inspections regarding overcrowding	..	..	1
(5)	Inspections regarding Certificates of Disrepair/Qualification Certificates	..	..	0
(6)	Inspections of caravan sites	..	..	12
(7)	Inspections of individual caravans	..	..	50
(8)	Miscellaneous housing inspections	..	..	279
(9)	Investigations of applications for Council house tenancies	..	..	10

(b) Housing Notices

(1)	Informal Notices served regarding disrepair and defects	..	..	52
(2)	Statutory Notices served under Housing Act regarding disrepair and defects	..	..	0
(3)	Statutory Notices served under Public Health Act regarding disrepair and defects	..	..	0

(c) Unfit Houses

(1)	Houses officially reported Unfit to Council under Housing Act	..	0
(2)	(a) Undertakings accepted (i) to make fit for human habitation..	..	0
	(ii) not to use for human habitation..	..	0
	(b) Undertakings cancelled	..	0
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Undertakings (Dec. 1969)	..	..
	(i) to make fit for human habitation..	..	4
	(ii) not to use for human habitation..	..	27
(3)	(a) Closing Orders made	..	3
	(b) Closing Orders determined	..	3
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Closing Orders (Dec. 1969)	..	101
(4)	(a) Demolition Orders made	..	7
	(b) Demolition Orders revoked	..	13
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Demolition Orders (Dec. 1969)	..	120

(d) Slum Clearance Proposals

Details of the Council's ten years' Slum Clearance Proposals are given in the following tables which show:—

- (1) the approved proposals,
- (2) the year-by-year progress made,
- (3) the position at 31st December, 1969.
- (4) occupation of unfit houses in parish detail.

(1)

Years	Total Houses in District Unfit for Human Habitation
1956-65	587 (including 198 remaining from previous proposals)
1966-75	598 (including 313 remaining from 1956-65 proposals)

(2)

Year	Houses Reported Unfit	Undertakings Accepted	Closing Orders Made	Demolition Orders Made	Houses Made Fit	Houses Demolished	Council House Rehousings
1956	40	20	0	51	7	25	12
1957	52	6	0	38	15	27	8
1958	48	3	17	23	8	36	18
1959	55	5	3	32	10	25	19
1960	60	8	26	29	12	22	21
1961	43	6	11	33	16	17	11
1962	65	0	13	27	15	29	17
1963	62	1	22	45	14	37	9
1964	18	5	6	17	10	33	12
1965	83	0	13	31	29	28	10
1966	15	4	11	11	15	12	15
1967	39	1	6	26	18	20	4
1968	46	2	7	22	23	40	6
1969	0	0	3	7	16	8	7
Totals	626	61	138	392	208	359	169

(3)

Unfit Houses reported to Council and made subject to				Unfit Houses Awaiting Report to Council
Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Action Pending	
31	101	120	2	192

(4)

Parish	Occupied Houses subject to				Vacant Houses subject to				Total Houses	
	Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Action Pending	Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Action Pending	Occupied	Vacant
Alphamstone	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	2
Ashen	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
Belchamp Otten	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belchamp St. Paul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belchamp Walter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birdbrook	0	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	9	1
Borley	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Bulmer	0	6	0	0	2	5	0	0	6	7
Bures Hamlet	0	3	0	0	0	2	3	0	3	5
Castle Hedingham	1	4	5	0	3	7	5	0	10	15
Colne Engaine	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Earls Colne	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	3
Foxearth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gestingthorpe	0	2	2	0	0	0	5	0	4	5
Gosfield	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Great Henny	0	1	3	0	0	1	3	0	4	4
Great Maplestead	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Great Yeldham	0	1	0	0	1	5	1	0	1	7
Halstead Rural	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	1	5
Helions Bumpstead	1	1	5	0	0	1	5	0	7	6
Lamarsh	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Liston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Henny	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Maplestead	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Little Yeldham	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	1
Middleton	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Ovington	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Pebmarsh	0	0	3	0	2	0	3	0	3	5
Pentlow	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Ridgewell	0	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	2
Sible Hedingham	0	8	11	0	1	11	7	0	19	19
Stambourne	0	1	5	0	0	1	4	0	6	5
St. Bumpstead	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Sturmer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilbury-juxta-Clare	2	5	0	0	3	2	0	0	7	5
Toppesfield	0	0	9	0	0	0	4	0	9	4
Twinstead	2	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	4	4
White Colne	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	4	2
Wickham St. Paul	2	1	2	0	4	0	1	0	5	5
Totals	10	61	59	1	21	40	61	1	131	123
Total Houses Owner-Occupied	7	30	24	0	0	0	0	0	61	0

The securing of early re-housing of families living in unfit dwellings, and the reconditioning or demolition of these houses, is a problem which should be overcome with the very minimum of further delay.

(e) **Housing Improvements**

(1)	Houses reconditioned or repaired following informal action by Public Health Inspectors..	104
(2)	Houses fully reconditioned to the "Twelve Points Standard"	39
(3)	Houses repaired following Statutory Housing Act Notices ..	0
(4)	Houses repaired following Statutory Public Health Act Notices ..	0
(5)	Houses reconditioned following Statutory Housing Act Orders ..	16
(6)	Houses demolished following Statutory Demolition Orders under Housing Act ..	8

(f) **Housing Improvement Grants**

(1)	Applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants ..	12
(2)	Discretionary Improvement Grants approved..	11
(3)	Schemes completed ..	12

Details regarding Discretionary Improvement Grants are given in the following tables:—

Year	Applications			Completions		
	Received	Approved	Grant Approved	No.	Grant Paid	
1949	1	0	—	—	—	
1950	9	0	—	—	—	
1951	1	0	—	—	—	
1952	0	0	—	—	—	
1953	7	2	£400 0 0	1	£200	0 0
1954	19	18	£4,093 10 0	4	£740	0 0
1955	49	48	£11,113 0 0	20	£5,726	10 0
1956	49	48	£13,322 0 0	38	£7,746	0 0
1957	46	46	£12,414 0 0	40	£10,868	0 0
1958	36	34	£9,560 0 0	45	£12,174	0 0
1959	50	50	£13,716 0 0	32	£8,661	0 0
1960	24	23	£7,503 0 0	43	£12,233	0 0
1961	42	42	£13,567 0 0	24	£8,237	0 0
1962	31	30	£9,677 0 0	33	£10,534	0 0
1963	26	25	£8,085 0 0	19	£6,033	0 0
1964	22	22	£6,194 0 0	14	£4,527	0 0
1965	15	15	£4,326 0 0	19	£5,865	0 0
1966	11	11	£4,208 0 0	20	£5,913	0 0
1967	14	14	£5,015 0 0	9	£3,009	0 0
1968	8	8	£2,655 0 0	15	£5,562	0 0
1969	12	11	£5,272 0 0	12	£4,053	0 0
Totals	472	447	£131,120 10 0	388	£112,081	10 0

Year	Houses Occupied by			Totals
	Agricultural Workers	Other Tenants	Owners	
1949 to 1953	1	1	0	2
1954	9	6	3	18
1955	16	24	8	48
1956	21	11	16	48
1957	27	11	8	46
1958	20	6	8	34
1959	23	12	15	50
1960	6	5	12	23
1961	20	8	14	42
1962	12	6	12	30
1963	7	8	10	25
1964	5	11	6	22
1965	5	5	5	15
1966	2	1	8	11
1967	0	5	9	14
1968	2	3	3	8
1969	1	2	8	11
Totals	177	125	145	447

(4) Applications for Standard Grants	..	..	..	..	..	7
(5) Standard Grants approved	..	..	..	..	..	7
(6) Schemes completed	..	..	..	..	..	13

Details regarding Standard Grants are given in the following tables:—

Year	Applications			Completions		
	Received	Approved	Maximum Grant Approved	No.	Amount of Standard Grant	
					Maximum Approved	Actual Paid
1959	15	15	£1,855	0	—	—
1960	43	43	£5,920	14	£1,725	£1,563 14 0
1961	25	25	£3,570	24	£2,990	£2,679 13 7
1962	7	7	£1,045	17	£2,480	£2,378 11 1
1963	16	14	£2,020	14	£2,060	£1,875 9 4
1964	11	11	£1,500	12	£1,750	£1,577 0 3
1965	15	15	£2,346	11	£1,495	£1,480 9 0
1966	5	5	£900	13	£2,241	£2,082 0 0
1967	14	14	£2,329	6	£926	£895 14 11
1968	14	14	£2,726	11	£1,935	£1,935 0 0
1969	7	7	£1,255	13	£2,421	£2,281 6 1
Totals	172	170	£25,466	135	£20,023	£18,748 18 3

Year	Houses Occupied by			Totals
	Agricultural Workers	Other Tenants	Owners	
1959	0	4	11	15
1960	18	5	20	43
1961	8	3	14	25
1962	2	0	5	7
1963	1	6	7	14
1964	4	0	7	11
1965	1	3	11	15
1966	1	0	4	5
1967	0	5	9	14
1968	0	5	9	14
1969	0	1	6	7
Totals	35	32	103	170

(g) Loans for Repairing or Improving Houses

(7) Applications for Repair/Improvement Loans	..	..	..	2
(8) Repair/Improvement Loans Approved	..	..	..	1

Details regarding Repair/Improvement Loans are given in the following tables:—

Year	Applications		
	Received	Approved	Amount of Loan
1956	4	4	£1,450
1957	3	3	£1,795
1958	—	—	—
1959	1	1	£1,000
1960	3	3	£1,750
1961	4	4	£4,190
1962	4	4	£3,600
1963	—	—	—
1964	—	—	—
1965	—	—	—
1966	4	4	£7,900
1967	1	1	£1,930
1968	3	1	£600
1969	2	1	£3,000
Totals	29	26	£27,215

Parish distribution of Discretionary Improvement Grants, Standard Grants and Financial Loans for repairing or improving houses, is given in the following table:—

Parish	Discretionary Improvement Grants	Standard Grants	Repair/ Improvement Loans	Totals
Alphamstone	2	3	0	5
Ashen	11	4	0	15
Belchamp Otten	7	4	1	12
Belchamp St. Paul	15	4	0	19
Belchamp Walter	11	3	0	14
Birdbrook	8	4	0	12
Borley	1	3	0	4
Bulmer	7	13	0	20
Bures Hamlet	4	13	0	17
Castle Hedingham	17	4	0	21
Colne Engaine	44	11	11	66
Earls Colne	47	10	0	57
Foxearth	9	6	1	16
Gestingthorpe	8	3	1	12
Gosfield	30	6	0	36
Great Henny	5	0	2	7
Great Maplestead	9	0	1	10
Great Yeldham	15	6	1	22
Halstead Rural	50	14	0	64
Helions Bumpstead	14	2	0	16
Lamarsh	1	2	0	3
Liston	0	0	0	0
Little Henny	1	0	0	1
Little Maplestead	5	4	0	9
Little Yeldham	5	1	0	6
Middleton	5	2	0	7
Ovington	3	4	0	7
Pebmarsh	13	2	0	15
Pentlow	3	0	0	3
Ridgewell	4	5	1	10
Sible Hedingham	38	13	5	56
Stambourne	5	1	0	6
Steeple Bumpstead	16	10	0	26
Sturmer	5	2	0	7
Tilbury-juxta-Clare	3	0	0	3
Toppesfield	10	7	1	18
Twinstead	3	0	1	4
White Colne	12	1	0	13
Wickham St. Paul	1	3	0	4
Totals ..	447	170	26	643

(h) Rent Act

(1)	Applications for Certificates of Disrepair/Qualification Certificates..	0
(2)	Decisions to issue Certificates	0
(3)	Undertakings given by Landlords	0
(4)	Certificates of Disrepair/Qualification Certificates issued	0
(5)	Applications for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair/Qualification Certificates	0
(6)	Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair/Qualification Certificates	0
(7)	Certificates of Disrepair/Qualification Certificates cancelled ..	0

(i) Housing Overcrowding

(1)	Overcrowded houses existing December 1968	1
(2)	Overcrowded houses found during 1969	0
(3)	Overcrowded houses relieved during 1969	0
(4)	Overcrowded houses existing December 1969	1
(5)	Informal Notices served regarding abatement of overcrowding ..	0

(j) Caravan Sites

At the end of the year one caravan site licence for 58 caravans had been granted and there were 25 individual licensed caravan sites in the District. Most were used as permanent residences.

(k) Miscellaneous Housing Matters

During the year 51 houses were built by private enterprise. Nine two-bedroom bungalows and 12 two-bedroom flats were built by the Council. Twenty-five existing Council houses were variously improved to present day standards of amenity by the provision of bathrooms, internal water closets, hot water supplies, improved drainage systems, etc.

Houses owned by the Council at the end of the year were:— (from information supplied by the Council's Housing Officer)

Pre-war.	Houses	427
Post-war.	Houses and Bungalows	902
	Flats and Flatlets	124
	(1 block of 20, 1 block of 16, 1 block of 12, 1 block of 8, 15 blocks of 4, 4 blocks of 2)	

Houses sold by Council to tenants:—

(a)	During 1969	0
(b)	Total	21
	(11 pre-war and 10 post-war)	

There were no registered Common Lodging Houses nor unsatisfactory Houses in Multiple Occupation in the District.

2. FOOD

Food supplies control and food hygiene work generally formed an appreciable proportion of your Public Health Inspectors' duties. It is stressed that the number of food complaints shown in the report does not reflect the true extent of the problems involved. The co-operation of the public in bringing unsatisfactory circumstances to the notice of your Public Health Inspectors is most important, and reticence in making official complaints continues to hinder progress in this matter. Unfortunately, most housewives in particular seem concerned only with the price of food and not the hygienic conditions under which it is sold.

Some proprietors of food preparation premises, shops, restaurants, etc., did not seem to realise that the existence of unhygienic conditions is an offence against the Food Hygiene Regulations and renders them liable to prosecution without warning. They were apt to consider that all they required to do is remedy unsatisfactory conditions found during routine inspection by Public Health Inspectors.

(a) Food, Food Hygiene and Food Premises Inspections

Details of food premises in the District, and of inspections made by Public Health Inspectors of the food therein, the hygiene of the processes, and the structure and cleanliness of the premises were:—

Type of Food Premises	No. in Dis- trict	No. of Inspec- tions	Having wash hand basins with hot and cold water (Reg. 16)	Having sink with hot and cold water (Reg. 19)	Required to have sink with hot and cold water (Reg. 19)
Bakehouses	1	1	1	1	1
Bread and Confectioners	2	0	1	2	2
Bread Distribution Depots	1	4	1	1	1
Dairies and Milk Distributors	8	10	5	6	4
Egg Packing Premises	1	1	1	1	1
Fish Shops and Fish Fryers	3	32	1	2	3
Game Dealers' Premises	—	—	—	—	—
General Provisions Shops	51	111	32	25	51
Greengrocers	1	4	1	—	1
Ice Cream Premises (Registered) ..	46	1	24	—	—
Meat Products Premises (Registered)	9	0	8	9	9
Meat Shops	10	42	9	10	10
Poultry Processing Premises	2	18	—	—	2
Public Houses and Inns	64	169	15	61	61
Restaurants and Cafes	11	31	6	10	11
School Kitchens	19	32	13	19	19
Slaughterhouses	1	138	1	1	1
Social Clubs	3	4	2	3	3
Street Vendors	—	2	—	—	—
Sweet Confectioners	5	4	3	1	4
Works Canteens	4	3	4	4	4
Miscellaneous	4	13	4	2	2
Totals ..	246	620	132	158	190

Food premises fully surveyed	..	..	..	..	29
Food poisoning investigations	..	..	..	..	0
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	65
Food premises improved	..	..	..	..	26
Food vehicles improved	..	..	..	..	0

No Clean Food Guilds were inaugurated or existed during the year.

Food traders were co-operative in securing the hygienic handling and storage of food, but improvement in these matters is very dependent upon public opinion.

(b) Food Premises Improvements

Type of Food Premises	Structural Works	Decorations and Cleaning	Lighting and Ventilation	Cold Water Supply	Hot Water Supply	Washing Facilities		Food Storage and Display	Refuse Storage Facilities	Drainage	Sanitary Accommodation	Name and Address Displayed	Wash Hand Notices Displayed	Totals
						Wash-hand Basins	Sinks							
Bakehouses ..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
General Provision Shops ..	5	4	5	6	6	5	2	1	1	1	1	0	2	39
Greengrocers ..	3	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Meat Shops ..	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	7
Public Houses and Inns ..	4	10	3	9	8	1	8	0	0	1	1	0	0	45
Miscellaneous ..	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Totals ..	14	18	9	18	17	7	13	1	2	2	2	0	2	105

(c) Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses

One slaughterhouse was licensed by the Council and used by two local butchers during the year. Slaughtering was carried out on three days per week. This regular slaughtering of animals at fixed times on fixed days was approved by the Council.

All animals slaughtered in the District were inspected in accordance with statutory requirements for fitness of the meat and offal for human consumption and, if passed, officially stamped before leaving the slaughterhouse.

No specimens were submitted to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for examination.

Charges for meat inspection of 2/6 per bovine animal, 9d. per calf or pig, and 6d. per sheep, lamb or goat remained in force.

Details of meat inspection carried out by Public Health Inspectors at the slaughterhouses are given in the following table:—

	Cattle exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed	292	0	1	414	428	0
No. Inspected	292	0	1	414	428	0
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	37	0	0	0	25	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	12.67	0	0	0	5.84	0
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	0	0	0	0	1	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	0	0	0	0	0.23	0
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
(a) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Generalised and totally con- demned	0	0	0	0	0	0

Licensed Slaughtermen: 5

(d) Poultry Inspection at Poultry Processing Premises

Two poultry processing premises were in operation during the year, and had a total weekly throughput of approximately 4,500 broilers. Regular routine inspection by Public Health Inspectors for their fitness for human consumption was not practicable, but occasional examinations were made as possible, and inspections were made mainly on the "spotter system". It should be appreciated, however, that many farms and small holdings processed and retailed poultry to some extent and especially during the Christmas period, and in the main processing at these premises was carried out unknown to your Public Health Inspectors and often under somewhat unhygienic conditions.

(e) Milk and Dairies

The Council remained responsible for the registration of dairies other than dairy farms and of distributors, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the supervision of dairy farms. Dealers' licenses were granted by the Essex County Council as Food and Drugs Authority, and permitted sales outside as well as inside the area of the licensing authority.

Bacteriological milk sampling and also routine sampling for biological examination for tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus was carried out by the Essex County Council. No herds with brucella abortus infection were notified by the County Council. No samples of raw milk were submitted for examination for brucella abortus by your Public Health Inspectors.

Ten inspections were made during the year of the four registered dairy premises.

(f) Liquid Egg Processing Premises

There were no liquid egg pasteurisation plants in the District, and no samples of liquid egg were submitted for the prescribed test.

(g) Ice Cream

There were no premises in the District registered for the manufacture of ice cream, but 46 premises were registered for the sale only of pre-packed ice cream.

Details of samples of ice cream and ice lollies taken for bacteriological examination are given in the following tables:—

Ministry of Health Provisional Grade	No. of Ice Cream Samples	Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Cream Samples
I	6	Excellent	0
II	0	V. Satisfactory	0
III	0	Satisfactory	6
IV	0	Fair	0
		Unsatisfactory	0
Total	6	Total	6

Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Lolly Samples
Excellent	0
V. Satisfactory	0
Satisfactory	2
Fair	0
Unsatisfactory	0
Total	2

(h) General

Only five complaints were received during the year regarding unfit food, food handlers' unhygienic practices or uncleanly food premises, as follows:—

Food	Complaint
Bread	Foreign object. Remains of Mediterranean Flour Moth.
Bread	Contaminated with animal or vegetable machinery lubricant.
Cheese	Foreign object. Cigarette end.
Sausages	Foreign object. Drawing pin.
Sausages	Sour.

In each case detailed investigations were carried out and appropriate informal action taken. Progress in these matters is, however, hindered by reticence on the part of the public in making official complaints.

No prosecutions regarding food or food premises were instituted during the year.

The County Council as Food and Drugs Authority were responsible for the taking of samples for chemical analysis of food and drugs, milk, ice cream, etc.

(i) **Unsound Food**

It was not necessary to make any seizures of food. Vendors co-operated satisfactorily in reporting suspected food, which resulted in the following commodities being voluntarily surrendered:—

Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	357 lbs.
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	95 lbs.
Tinned Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41 lbs.
Total ..								<u>493 lbs.</u>

This condemned food was stained and disposed of either by burial in deep refuse pits or by sterilisation at licensed Waste Food Boiling Premises.

No special examinations of whole stocks or consignments of food were necessary during the year.

3. AIR POLLUTION

Air pollution, an environmental condition of major importance, was not a matter subject to local complaint, and pressure of other work did not permit the time and effort warranted to be devoted to this duty.

(a) **New Furnace and Chimney Installations**

(1)	Notices submitted with plans and specifications of proposals to install furnaces and chimneys to which the Clean Air Act applies..	0
(2)	Approvals granted of such plans and specifications for the purposes of the Clean Air Act	0

(b) **Air Pollution Nuisances**

(1)	Investigations	14
(2)	Confirmed	0
(3)	Abated	0

No smoke control areas were declared by the Council or confirmed by the Minister during the year.

4. WASTE MATTERS

(a) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Public Sewerage and Sewage Disposal was part of the duties of your Engineer and Surveyor.

Comprehensive sewerage and sewage disposal schemes served 15 parishes (Belchamp St. Paul, Birdbrook (Baythorn End), Bures Hamlet, Castle Hedingham, Colne Engaine, Earls Colne, Foxearth, Gosfield, Great Yeldham, Halstead Rural (Greenstead Green), Pebmarsh, Ridgewell, Sible Hedingham, Steeple Bumpstead and Toppesfield). In addition ten small public sewers and sewage disposal works for Council houses and nearby private properties served parts of the parishes of Ashen, Bulmer, Colne Engaine, Gestingthorpe, Great Maplestead, Helions Bumpstead, Little Yeldham, Pentlow, Sible Hedingham and Wickham St. Paul.

Properties connected to the new public sewers constructed by the Council during the post war years, expressed as a percentage of properties capable of connection, together with the dates the schemes were completed:—

Belchamp St. Paul	..	..	..	(June, 1969)	..	..	..	47%
Birdbrook (Baythorn End)	..	..	..	(May, 1962)	..	..	..	100%
Castle Hedingham	..	..	..	(June, 1961)	..	..	..	99%
Colne Engaine	..	..	..	(July, 1964)	..	..	..	97%
Foxearth	..	..	..	(January, 1967)	..	..	..	96%
Gosfield	..	..	..	(March, 1961)	..	..	..	98%
Great Yeldham	..	..	..	(June, 1961)	..	..	..	89%
Halstead Rural (Greenstead Green)				(August, 1962)	..	..	..	99%
Pebmarsh	..	..	..	(April, 1963)	..	..	..	80%
Ridgewell	..	..	..	(March, 1965)	..	..	..	88%
Sible Hedingham	..	..	..	(June, 1961)	..	..	..	95%
Sible Hedingham (Wethersfield Rd.)				(December, 1969)	..	..	..	62%
Toppesfield	..	..	..	(March, 1963)	..	..	..	92%

The public sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Belchamp St. Paul was completed and officially opened in September. Work on a new length of public sewer in Wethersfield Road, Sible Hedingham and improvements to the existing public sewers in the Rectory Road/Church Street area was commenced in July and was nearing completion by the end of the year.

In July a length of public sewer in Nunnery Street, Castle Hedingham collapsed and 70 yards of it was relayed as an emergency measure.

At the end of the year tenders were being awaited for the public sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Steeple Bumpstead and Helions Bumpstead. A public sewerage scheme involving pumping from Sturmer to the Haverhill sewerage system, and a revised scheme for improvements and extensions to the public sewerage and sewage disposal works serving Bulmer (The Street), Castle and Sible Hedingham and Great Yeldham awaited Ministerial approval.

A public sewerage scheme for the Colchester Road area of White Colne, and feasibility studies for a public sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Stambourne, and the provision of a central sewage works sludge drying plant were in course of preparation by the Council's consulting engineers.

The parishes of Belchamp Walter and Birdbrook (The Street) had been given priority regarding their need for public sewerage and sewage disposal schemes in the near future, as also had remedial works at Tilbury-juxta-Clare. Schemes for Ashen, Gestingthorpe, Great Maplestead, Lamarsh, Middleton, Little Yeldham and Wickham St. Paul were considered for possible inclusion in the Council's future public sewerage proposals.

Forty-five inspections were made by your Public Health Inspectors of public sewers and sewer ditches following complaints, and certain unsatisfactory conditions such as blockages, need of cleansing, etc., were remedied.

Surveys of villages under consideration for sewerage schemes, involving 65 inspections, were carried out by Public Health inspectors to provide evidence as to need on public health grounds for such schemes in support of the Council's application for approval and grant aid from the County Council and the Ministry, and also to provide information to the Council's consulting engineers.

(b) Drainage

Drainage was part of the duties of Public Health Inspectors. Due to the comparatively recent availability of mains water supply and public sewerage facilities in parts of the District, with the consequent desire for modern sanitary fittings in houses and most other premises, these duties again had to take some priority in the Department's work.

There was no scheme operated by the Council for emptying cesspools or sewage tanks in the District (except at Council houses), and householders made their own arrangements with private contractors.

(i) Drainage Duties

1. Plans examined regarding drainage proposals	..	..	..	289
2. Drainage investigations and advisory visits	..	..	..	144
3. Drainage inspections..	..	..	..	1,119
4. Inspection of ditches, etc.	..	..	..	114
5. Drainage tests	..	..	..	243
6. Informal Notices served	..	..	..	31
7. Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	0
8. Statutory Notices complied with	..	..	..	0

(ii) Drainage Improvements

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors, the following improvements were effected:—

1. Premises drained to sewers	..	..	..	..	46
2. Premises drained to septic tanks	..	..	..	..	50
3. Drains reconstructed..	..	..	..	..	38
4. Drains cleansed	..	..	..	..	12
5. Ditches cleansed	..	..	..	..	1

(c) Sanitary Fittings and Conveniences

There is a need in the District for the conversion of earth closets into water closets and for the provision of baths to dwellings. In the more urbanised parts of the District there is also a need for the provision of public conveniences.

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors the following improvements were effected:—

1. New sanitary conveniences provided	..	..	..	..	135
2. New urinals provided	..	..	..	..	2
3. Sinks provided	..	..	..	..	93
4. Baths provided	..	..	..	..	94
5. Showers provided	..	..	..	..	5
6. Wash-hand basins provided..	..	..	..	..	138
7. Sanitary conveniences reconstructed	..	..	..	..	0

(d) Refuse Storage and Disposal

Public cleansing was part of the duties of your Engineer and Surveyor. The Council possessed five refuse collecting vehicles, which removed house refuse at fortnightly intervals. Refuse was disposed of on refuse tips at Great Yeldham, Sible Hedingham and White Colne, and at Sudbury Borough Council's tip at Bulmer.

Special collections of bulky domestic refuse were undertaken free of charge in order to discourage the indiscriminate dumping of refuse in the countryside, and free tipping facilities were provided in accordance with the Civic Amenities Act 1967.

A weekly kerbside refuse collection service was introduced throughout the District on the 6th January, on receipt of clearance of a bonus payments scheme under Prices and Incomes Legislation.

At the end of the year agreement was reached with the Halstead Urban District Council for the use of their refuse tip at Foxborough Hills, Sible Hedingham.

Eighteen inspections of refuse tips and 24 inspections regarding refuse accumulations were made by Public Health Inspectors. Twelve informal notices were served regarding refuse accumulation and 14 regarding provision of dustbins.

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors 13 accumulations of refuse were removed and 12 dustbins provided.

(e) Flood Relief

Further proposals made for flood relief at Steeple Bumpstead by strengthening the banks of the new channel of the Bumpstead Brook between the Ford and the Crescent Footbridge were considered, and at the end of the year the scheme awaited Ministerial approval.

5. WORKING CONDITIONS

The control of the health and welfare aspects of working conditions by Public Health Inspectors under the provisions of Factories Acts, Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, etc., has continued to receive increasing attention in recent years, and the following statistical details show some continued improvement.

(a) Factories

(1) Inspections and Notices

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	2	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	50	11	2	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	—	1	0	0
Totals	54	14	2	0

(2) Defects Found and Remedied

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ..	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	1	1	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ..	2	2	0	0	0

(3) Outworkers

Nature of Outwork	Section 133			Section 134			Inspections
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
Wearing apparel—Making, etc.	9	0	0	0	0	0	6
Carbon Jig Assembly	5						

(b) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises

During the year four new premises were registered, and all received a general inspection.

No serious contraventions were observed. Two informal notices were served in respect of various contraventions found during routine inspections, and three informal notices were complied with.

No accidents were reported during the year. No applications were received for exemption from the provisions relating to room space for employees, temperature, sanitary conveniences and running water supply to washing facilities.

The following tables give details of:—

(1) Premises registered and inspections.

(2) Contraventions.

(3) Improvements following informal action taken by Public Health Inspectors.

TABLE 1 PREMISES REGISTERED AND INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Premises registered during year	Registered premises at end of year	Registered premises general inspection	Total visits of all kinds	Persons Employed			
					Male		Female	
					Under 18 yrs.	Over 18 yrs.	Under 18 yrs.	Over 18 yrs.
Offices	0	13	2	15	—	52	1	29
Retail Shops	3	43	10	58	1	27	9	71
Wholesale shops, warehouses	0	4	1	8	1	69	—	3
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	7	1	5	—	6	1	16
Fuel storage depots	0	3	1	2	—	13	—	—
Totals ..	4	70	15	88	2	167	11	119

(c) **Miscellaneous**

Premises	No. in District	Inspections
Places of Entertainment	49	31
Schools	21	32
Certificates of Exemption granted (shops)		0
Certificates of Exemption (shops) in operation		0

6. WATER

The water supply of the area was satisfactory both in respect of quality and quantity although from 31st March to 30th September, 1969 it was necessary to prohibit the use of hosepipes for gardens, car-washing, etc. The Council's own District Water Scheme borewell supply was chlorinated and softened, and none of the public mains supplies had a plumbo-solvent action.

The Council's District Water Undertaking was transferred to the Colchester and District Water Board on the 1st April, under the Colchester and District Water Board Order, 1969.

The water consumption in the District from the Colchester and District Water Board public piped mains supply was estimated to be 42·8 gallons per head per day by their Chief Engineer.

As routine procedure samples of District water mains supply were submitted for bacteriological laboratory examination monthly, and samples of all other mains water supplies quarterly. The samples included some of raw water direct from the borewells. Samples for chemical analysis were also taken.

During the year 109 premises were connected to the water mains and the following work was carried out by your Public Health Inspectors:—

(a) Inspections regarding water supplies	76
(b) Statutory Notices served re water supplies	0
(c) Informal Notices served re water supplies	0
(d) Premises connected to water mains following Statutory Notice	0
(e) Premises connected to water mains following informal action	0
(f) Wells improved following informal action	0
(g) Samples of water submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. Details of these are given in the following table	58

Source	No. of Samples	Wholesome	Below Standard
Public Water Mains	33	29	4
Private Water Mains	16	15	1
Public Wells, etc.	0	0	0
Private Wells, etc.	9	5	4
Totals	58	49	9

(h) Samples of water examined for Chlorine content only: 14

Public Swimming Baths

There were no public swimming baths in the District. Part of Gosfield Lake continued in use as a public bathing pool. During the bathing season three samples were taken for chemical analysis and three for bacteriological examination which showed the water to be of a somewhat inferior organic quality, showing a yellowish-brown opalescence. The bacteriological results, however, compared very favourably with those in many natural waters used for bathing.

Typical Chemical Analyses of Public and Private Mains Water Supplies in the District, given in parts per million, are shown in the following table:

Examination For	Supply							
	Public				Private			
	Halstead R.D.C. Gt. Yeldham Borewell	West Suffolk Water Board	Colchester and District Water Board	Lee Valley Water Company (Hempstead)	George Courtauld Farms Ltd., C'line Eng'ne	R. Hunt & Co. Ltd., Earls Colne	Paines Manor Pentlow	Rippers Ltd., Sible Hedingham
Turbidity	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Less than 3	Nil	Less than 3	Nil
Colour	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH	9.4	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.8	7.1	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	Absent	35	25	18	15	8	50	28
Electric Conductivity	480	910	880	610	810	960	670	600
Dissolved Solids Dried at 180°C.	350	650	580	400	540	640	480	430
Chlorine present as Chloride ..	63	38	118	20	114	158	28	32
Alkility as Calcium Carbonate	30	320	295	260	280	240	310	265
Hardness: Total	150	550	320	340	270	240	385	325
Carbonate (Temporary)	30	320	295	260	270	240	310	265
Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	120	230	25	80	0	0	75	60
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.9	2.0	0.0	8.8	0.5	0.5	5.0	1.4
Nitrite Nitrogen	0.01	Absent	0.05	Absent	Absent	0.01	0.01	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.03	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oxygen Absorbed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.20	0.00	0.00
Residual Chlorine	0.04	Absent	0.10	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Metals: Iron	0.06	0.04	Absent	Absent	0.10	0.04	Absent	Absent
Zinc	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	10	Absent
Copper, Lead	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Fluoride	0.4	0.1	—	0.1	1.3	1.8	0.1	0.1

7. PESTS

Pest control, a routine environmental health duty which may easily be overlooked, has been given more prominence nationally recently, and the very wide variety of pests which it is necessary for your Public Health Inspectors to identify, advise upon regarding disinfestation measures, and supply appropriate rodenticides, pesticides and insecticides, etc., are detailed.

(a) Insect Pests

The District continued to be comparatively free from household insect pest infestations. No premises were found with bed bug infestations. A total of 29 inspections were made by Public Health Inspectors regarding insect pests and 28 premises were disinfested. The Council operated from October a free wasp nest destruction service for domestic premises at the discretion of the Public Health Inspector. Supplies of pesticides, insecticides, etc., were also issued free to private householders. Pests dealt with included cockroaches, flies, ants beetles, fleas, mosquitoes, wasps, mites, spider mites, silver fish, etc. No major insect pest infestations occurred at the Council's refuse dumps, but they were treated with insecticide as a routine measure.

An extensive and interesting infestation occurred at one house in the District of tiny wasp-like insects which were identified as *Stenomalina muscarum* (L.) (Hymenoptera, Chalcidoidea, Pteromalidae) or Chalcid wasps. These insects prey upon other small chloropid flies which themselves are predators upon field aphids. The Chalcid wasp is quite innocuous and does more good than harm. It is unusual to find such an infestation of these insects indoors, and although their presence causes nuisance, they are quite harmless and do not constitute a public health hazard.

(b) Rodent Control

The Council operated a rat and mouse disinfestation service for occupiers of business premises on a basis of repayment of the cost of time, transport and materials. A free rat and mouse disinfestation service, at the discretion of the Public Health Inspector, continued to operate for occupiers of domestic premises. Poison bait was also issued free to private householders.

There was no unduly high incidence of rat and mouse infestations in the District. The Council's public sewers, sewage disposal works, refuse dumps, etc., were rat disinfested as a routine measure in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food requirements.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors and part-time Rodent Operator during the year were:—

No.	Properties other than Sewers	Type of Property	
		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1.	Number of properties in District ..	7,649	453
2a.	Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	125	5
2b.	Number infested by (i) Rats	95	4
	(ii) Mice	32	1
3a.	Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	1,004	20
3b.	Number infested by (i) Rats	2	0
	(ii) Mice	1	0
Sewers			
4.	No sewers were found to be infested by rats during the year.		

The Council's rodent control service treated 121 infestations, 90 rats and 31 mice at non-agricultural premises, and 24 rat infestations at Council premises, sewerage works, refuse dumps, etc.

Two informal notices were served in respect of rat infestations at two non-agricultural premises. Fourteen non-agricultural premises were rat disinfested by private persons or contractors following informal action by Public Health Inspectors.

One "Block Control" scheme in respect of four houses was carried out.

There was no evidence of Warfarin-resistant rats in the District during the year.

(c) Miscellaneous Pests

One premise was disinfested in respect of moles by the Council's pest control service, and advice was given in response to enquiries regarding infestations of bats, squirrels, pigeons, etc.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

The following miscellaneous duties were also carried out by Public Health Inspectors during the year:—

(a) Noise Nuisances									
(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
(2)	Confirmed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(3)	Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(b) Effluvia Nuisances									
(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75
(2)	Confirmed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
(3)	Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
(c) Keeping of Animals and Poultry Nuisances									
(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
(2)	Confirmed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
(3)	Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
(d) Notifiable Diseases									
(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
(2)	Premises Disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(e) Animal Boarding Establishments									
(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
(f) Pet Shops									
(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(g) Rag Flock Stores									
(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(h) Waste Food Boiling Premises									
(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
(i) Local Land Charges									
(1)	Reports to Clerk of Council on public health aspects of Official Searches in the Local Land Charges Register	..	..	..					594
(j) Plans									
(1)	Planning and Building Regulation plans examined regarding public health matters	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	289

It is emphasised how important it is that plans should be examined by Public Health Inspectors to avoid works being carried out in accordance with Planning Permissions and Building Regulation Approvals which contravene statutory requirements administered through Public Health Inspectors, especially at food premises, houses, places of employment, shops, factories, etc. Prior consultation with Public Health Inspectors is also particularly important especially when Planning Permissions are sought for such projects as “factory farming” and industrial processes producing noxious fumes, waste products or excessive noise.

(k) Special Reports

Two special reports were submitted to the Council by the Public Health Inspector during the year:—

- (1) Insect Pests – Wasp Nest Destruction.
- (2) Vesting of Private Sewers as Public Sewers.

(l) Training of Public Health Workers

Several students (Public Health workers, Teachers, etc.) were conducted on inspection visits of places of public health interest throughout the District.

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